



Minutes – November 6, 2023

The regular meeting of the Michigan Citizen-Community Emergency Response Coordinating Council (MCCERCC) was held on Monday, November 6, 2023, at 7150 Harris Drive, Dimondale, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by the chairpersons' designee, Insp. Michele Sosinski. Roll call was taken by the secretary and the following Council members were present: Mr. Brad Deacon, Mr. John Dulmes, Mr. Jay Fiedler, Mr. Tutt Gorman, Ms. Theresa Metzmaker, Mr. Jeff Parsons, Ms. Eileen Phifer, Mr. Robert Seeley, Mr. Kevin Sehlmeier, Ms. Melissa Sherry, Insp. Michele Sosinski, and Ms. Abigail Watkins. There was a quorum present.

Absent from the meeting were Ms. Aimee Barajas, Ms. Megan Anderson, Mr. Jay Eickholt, Ms. Krystal Fields, Mr. Steven Frisbie, Mr. Hassan Hammoud, and Maj. Steven Haggerty.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Robert Seeley made a motion to approve the November 6, 2023, agenda. The motion was supported by Mr. Kevin Sehlmeier. The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Robert Seeley moved to approve the August 7, 2023, meeting minutes. Motion was supported by Mr. Kevin Sehlmeier. Minutes were approved as presented.

Reports of Committees

Citizen Corps

Ms. Melissa Sherry reported that the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) has continued to meet with Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) across the state to support recruitment and training and has reported an increase in volunteers. The CERT Teams are appreciative of the opportunity to install the fire and CO2 devices in residential homes. The Michigan State Police (MSP) Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL) has been promoting the installation program. The MCSC recently met with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) CERT coordinator and discussions are being had to have interactive training through FEMA for CERT teams. In Region Two a statewide training will be held in January and DTE is requesting the opportunity to provide advanced training for downed power line safety which will be included in this event. The MSP recently shared the opportunity to begin a teen CERT program and Region Three is exploring this opportunity.

Since the last meeting, the MCSC concluded a request for proposals to support communities to develop volunteer and donation teams. Two organizations were awarded these opportunities, the first being the Superior Watershed Partnership which will provide coverage for the Upper Peninsula. The second, is Class Act which will work with long-term recovery groups and several non-profit organizations in Wayne County. We will be working with local emergency managers and local non-profits to develop regional response plans. MCSC will be working with a contractor identified through SEMC to achieve these plans.

In the recovery initiatives, MCSC did respond to the August 2023 flooding and tornadoes working closely with the emergency managers and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs). Local CERT teams also went door to door inquiring about assistance needed. The VOADs commended Kent County, MCSC, and 211 on the operation by both the MSP and county representatives which allowed them to organize their response efforts. The assistance by volunteers and VOADs assist with data entry. Eaton County had 10 members of Team Rubicon respond and they responded to Dimondale and Grand Ledge areas primarily

* Denotes employee of the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division

providing chainsaw work. Seventh Day Adventists also had members respond and they also provided chainsaw work. Eaton County requested residents to self-report damage using the damage assessment survey tool and had 488 households report damage. The MCSC used AmeriCorps members to conduct follow-up phone calls to these residents which resulted in six cases requiring additional assistance. This showed the VOADs who assisted were able to satisfy most of the needs. In southeast Michigan, the community primarily suffered from flooding and VOAD provided 106 clean-up buckets to residents in Wayne County. A clean-up blitz was completed in October and 24 of 117 homes were provided clean-up assistance, some of which were impacted by the June 2021 floods and impacted again in this August 2023 storm. A Spring clean-up blitz is also being planned.

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know (EPCR)

Mr. Mike Young attending on behalf of Jay Eickholt. At the request of Mr. Eickholt, Inspector Sosinski announced the EPCR held a meeting on November 2 to discuss records retention and planning upcoming trainings, Mr. Young will review the sample records retention schedules Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is ready to provide to Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). MCCERCC members had requested records retention information specific to Tier 2 reporting and emergency planning requirements under EPCR for records retention. EGLE created a sample records retention schedule and if anyone in the meeting is interested, they can request a copy from EGLE. Under EPCR there are no requirements for records retention for LEPCs, but we have provided a sample records retention schedule to make sure information is being collected for Tier 2 reports or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) doing compliance enforcement or audits on Tier 2 information. If you do need access to Tier 2 reports, EGLE can provide this information. It was asked if this would be provided to LEPCs, and it was discussed these could be distributed by the District Coordinators.

EGLE has scheduled the EPCR Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment (SARA) Title 3 Tier 2 reporting workshops across four locations around the state. These workshops focus on Tier 2 reporting and logging into the program and what to expect when reporting. The locations are posted on EGLE's education outreach site.

Ms. Brenna Roos* reporting on her last SARA Title III Plans, Mr. Tom Matzke will be taking over this responsibility. There were 45 new off-site emergency response plans all have been reviewed and approved. Lists were provided to the group with a list of LEPCs submitting new plans for 2023 and additional details for each plan. This number is lower than were received in previous years, several programs chose not to submit plans as they are not participating in the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness grant (HMEP) which is how many programs are reimbursed for their plans. A total of 1,334 update plans were received and primarily in participation in the support part of the HMEP grant and will be allocating \$40,272 for the support grant and the total allocated to all LEPCs split by type of plan is almost \$159,000.

Mr. Kevin Sehlmeier moved to adopt the 2023 SARA Title III Plan. The motion was supported by Mr. Rob Seeley. No discussion. All members approved. Motion passes.

Hazard Mitigation

Inspector Sosinski* reported she has been in discussion with Mr. Eileen Phifer about the Michigan Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) goals and objectives. The Mitigation Committee has met several times and is working closely with Mr. Greg Ostrander*. While it is not up for vote, the Committee is comfortable in presenting the information to the group today. Ms. Phifer asked Mr. Matt Schnepf to provide the group with his update before proceeding with the MHMP committee presentation by Mr. Greg Ostrander.

Mr. Matt Schnepf* provided updates on Hazard Mitigation Grants. Beginning with Fiscal Year 23 (FY23) the Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance Programs had a delayed start this year, because of Federal budget issues FEMA announced these in early October, with the application period opening on October 16. The deadline for applications is February 29 which allows for one additional month this year to submit applications. Nationally there is 1 billion dollars available under BRIC and 800 million dollars available under the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program. Project proposals were sought from community programs and 22 notices of intent to apply, and of those 22 we invited 20 to apply. If all 20 applications are filed this would represent 175 million dollars in grant applications under BRIC. Changes this year include an increase in restrictions which include 2 million dollars must be used for building codes to assist communities in enforcement, assistance, training, and adoption of new codes. Michigan is under a statewide building code, a meeting was held with Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) last week, and learned we are currently under the 2015 and are updating to 2021 with implementation next year. We will be working to collaborate with LARA to assist local governments in learning and enforcement of the new codes. The

remainder of the 4 million dollars, 1.5 million dollars must be used for capability and capacity development projects which would include local hazard mitigation plans or communities doing studies to determine the best solution for a mitigation problem. FEMA has put out a recent new concept called Community Resilient Disaster Zones this is legislation supported by Michigan Senator Gary Peters the intent is to do a data-driven process to identify communities that are most at risk for disaster damages and most vulnerable from recovery. In Michigan, there were 10 communities identified. A portion of the 4 million dollars, \$400,000 is being asked to be directed to developing activities in these areas. In Fiscal Year 22 (FY22) Michigan received two competitive grants for the cities of Detroit and Hamtramck for storm sewer and improvement projects. Lastly, the storm revolving loan fund program previously discussed with the council, since the last meeting FEMA will be a recipient of a grant of 5.1 million dollars, and the state will put in 10% which will be a total of 5.6 million dollars to create a revolving loan fund which will allow us to provide low interest up to a 20 year loan period for communities to implement hazard mitigation projects. Funds have not been awarded yet and are expected to be within the next couple of months as the program is currently being built. Notices of interest were sought as part of the state application, 43 were received and additional details will be requested. It is expected between now and the end of the calendar year another application period will be opened for the next round of funding with the hope we will be able to add additional program funding.

Mr. Greg Ostrander presented and reviewed with the group the list of goals/objectives of the Hazard Mitigation Plan 2024. The objectives were put together with the aid of the Michigan Hazard Analysis but also reviewed the previous data obtained through EMHSD. This is indicative of the hazards we are seeing around the state. There are four broad goals, 19 objectives, and 49 implementation actions. The first goal is to Prioritize Life Safety, this has not changed from the 2019 Hazard Mitigation Plan, also, goal two Reduce Property Damage has not changed. Goal three is a combination of two similar goals in 2019 related to education and leadership in education, FEMA identified these as being similar enough they should be combined and then introduced goal four which encapsulates what key things are being done by state agencies and other stakeholders. FEMA has reviewed these goals and objectives. The main takeaways are the emphasis on climate change-related issues, extreme heat, drought, and invasives. Also, an emphasis on economic justice screening tools and the new program FEMA is implementing was previously addressed by Mr. Schnepf. Emphasis is also being placed on southeast Michigan which is where our more vulnerable communities are located. This plan is 99% completed, FEMA has asked for a few minor adjustments.

Old Business

Mr. Jay Fiedler provided a Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) update and is now the representative for MDHHS. A new grant opportunity MDHHS applied for a strategic preparedness response grant, Michigan was awarded a federal reserve core grant of approximately \$700,000 that is designed to bolster the medical reserve corps in Michigan. We have a goal to support current units, form new units, conduct a statewide volunteer conference in 2024, increase training and education programs, and invest in a standardized background check module for the Michigan volunteer registry. The local health department MRC units that will be funded in year one is the Detroit Health Department, Livingston County Health Department, Macomb County Health Department, and Monroe County Health Department. This is a two-year grant opportunity, and we are looking to see what we can do to expand these MRC opportunities here in Michigan.

New Business

Inspector Sosinski introduced Ms. Renee Bartlett the new executive assistant to the Command in Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (EMHSD), she is replacing Ms. Diane Labin as the note-taker for these meetings. Mr. Tom Matzke was also introduced as the new SARA Title III Planner who is replacing Ms. Brenna Roos's previous role with MCCERCC.

Ms. Brenna Roos presented the MCCERCC Annual Plan, which is currently in draft form. Ms. Roos is requesting the committee review and provide feedback on the specialized committee list. Please review the information and if you are not listed, please advise Mr. Roos.

Ms. Abigail Watkins addressed the MCCERCC Annual Plan with the Citizens Corps section being CERT heavy and little information on the MDHHS Reserve Course. It may be helpful to broaden MRC goals and objectives. Recently it was brought to Ms. Watkins's attention that a group Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), is a nationwide program for HOSA and MRC partnerships, in Michigan 110 schools are participating in this program. The Michigan Department of Education and Michigan Department of Health Council with HOSA students compete locally, statewide, and nationwide which includes a program building resilient communities. We could explore at highlighting a partnership with this group. Ms. Roos requested Ms.

Watkins to work with the Citizen Corps committee and to then provide her with the information to add to the plan. It is being requested all updates be received in two weeks. This plan is a review of the past year.

Motion to support draft plan pending MSP approval and changes provided moved by Mr. Rob Seeley and supported by Ms. Melissa Sherry. Motion passes.

Ms. Roos presented the 2024 MCCERCC meeting schedule. Mr. Brad Deacon made a motion to approve the 2024 MCCERCC meeting schedule as presented. The motion was supported by Mr. Rob Seeley. Motion passes.

The Bureau of Fire Services represented by Mr. Kevin Sehlmeier and Ms. Kimberly Pashkowsky presented the Bureau of Fire Services MIPrevention program.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Inspector Sosinski reminded members that the next MCCERCC meeting is scheduled for January 22 from 2 - 4 p.m. at MSP Headquarters, 1917 Room.

Adjournment

Mr. John Dulmes moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was supported by Ms. Abigail Watkins. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Mr. Brad Deacon, Secretary